CONSIDERATIONS
AND
PROPOSALS
Presented to his Late HIGHNESSE
OLIVER LORD PROTECTOR
OF
England,

Touching the not Warring with SPAIN, or the more advantagious prosecuting thereof, after it was begun.

By F. B.

LONDON,
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Some Conſiderations upon the preſent Expedition ſuppoſed for the West-India's, *humbly remitted to his Highneſſe the Lord* Protector, *and delivered to Secretary* Thurloe, *in* September 1654. *long before the Fleetes Departure.*

1. THe vaſt and inevitable charges of ſetting forth the Fleets, the continual pay of Seamen and Soldiers, with ſupplies that muſt be ſent, till the Concluſion of the Voyage, which is like to be dilated. *The Commiſſioners of the Admiraltie, Navie, and Purſe of this Nation know beſt with certainty what this Expedition and incident Charge hath coſt, but of other judicious men its generally judged to be about two Millions of* li. *ſterling.*

2. Whether in times of ſo much unſettlement, this Common-wealth can ſpare ſo many Ships and Seamen, which in great part are the ſecurity of the Land, to go ſo farre off from whence they cannot be occaſionally had home again upon neceſſitie, *England* being ſurrounded with ſo many conſiderable Potentates, and they for the moſt part in affection adverſaries, which upon all opportunities of advantage, will injure us, notwithſtanding any capitulations to the contrary, and the States Power being formidable, and at hand, will ſtill awe them to a better Compliance.

What an opportunitie did this Nation loſe, in not humbling the Hollander, ſo as that he might never have thwarted our intereſt again, as ever ſince he hath done, and now ſtrives for the Maſtery in Power and Commerce. And as we then ſtood we might have had our own termes with France, Spain, *and all others, and how different our condition now is may be diſcerned.*

3. They go to a place where they muſt not only fight men upon diſadvantages, the ſcituations helping ſtill the inhabitants in Countreys that have not commodious Ports of diſembarking an Army, and difficult wayes to march, but which is worſe, with a Climate not at all ſuiting with our *Engliſh* conſtitutions, particularly of Soldiers, which may be juſtly feared will ſweep away the greater part of them that go; more eſpecially, if Proviſions come to decay, or loſe of their natural vertue, as they are ſubject to do in ſuch extraordinary heats as they muſt there meet with, and liquor being the chief, is not to be had at all times in an enemies territories, and ſhips being thronged with people, diſeaſes will encreaſe and endanger all, then thoſe ſeas and aire with the piercing Sun, will deſtroy our *Engliſh* and *Dutch*-built ſhips both in Hull and Tackling, more in a moneths time, then in our own Northern Climates in a year, beſide the worm that eats under-water, will render them incapable of future-ſervice.

How was our Army beaten by a few deſpicable Mongrel-Spaniards, Shepherds and Blacks, that way-laid them in places of advantage, through which they were to march.

Moſt of the Soldiery, and many Seamen periſht for want of Proviſions, or eating ſuch as was ſpoil't, and not agreeing with the Climate.

Some of the Ships were loſt, and the reſt came home in a decayed, tottering condition, whoſe repairs was ſufficiently chargeable.

4. In caſe of a repulſe, (to which all attempters are ſubject) in an enemies dominions, and ſo diſtant from relief, which will daunt many a ſwelling ſpirit, this Common-wealth will be Involv'd out of honour and intereſt to a ſecond engagement, that muſt be more coſtly, and neceſſarily burthen the ſubject, which will be the more reſented, when ſucceſſe thwarts the great expectations firſt entertained of the deſign, for undoubtedly the enemies ſo long time of advertiſement, will give them time to

Beſide, our Army being ſo diſhonourably repulſt: and diſpirited at Sancto Domingo, *what ſupplies of men and other neceſſaries have, to little purpoſe, been ſince ſent to* Jamaica, *is rather felt then duely conſidered, or rightly known.*

to provide largely for defence, and retire with their riches to inacceſſible places, which muſt render the buſineſſe more difficult, and peradventure altogether fruitleſſe, and of diſrepute.

5. Let it be granted, that the place intended be ſurprized, yet before it can be put in a thriving way, what an endleſſe treaſure muſt be diſburſed, beſide the loſſe of men and ſhipping, and 'tis queſtionable whether ever the benefit from thence will pay it again, theſe deſignes promiſing great matters, but in effect come to nothing, we have the example in hand of *New-England*, *Barbadoes*, *Chriſtophers*, &c. the firſt Planters whereof were all undone, and yet they were void lands, purchaſt without the price of blood, and little expence of money, and the Proceedings of the *Holland* Weſt-*India* Company in *Brazil*, may be pertinently recited, which have not only been baffled by their enemies, but outed of more wealth then ever they had from thence, the ſea reprizals ſet aſide, but here is hope of ſilver and gold mines; it may ſo fall out, that there are ſuch, which yet is doubtful, give it for granted, and let attention be had to the trouble in bringing them to perfection, and the extraordinary expences upon ſlaves and other people that muſt work in them, with the materials requiſite to ſuch a task, and it will appear that we have eaſier, and more profitable wayes to draw into *England* that treaſure, and if accounts were deliberately made up, it would be found that the King of *Spain* himſelf is not ſuch a great Gainer by the *India's*, as many in the world have conceived, though he have all in poſſeſſion.

The ſucceſſe we had in the India's *fully anſwers this particular.*

By our traffick, Manufactories, and employment of our ſhipping, were we furniſh't with the India-*ſilver.*

6. It were to be wiſhed, that the people allotted for this attempt, or others in their room were rather applied to *Ireland*, and more near Plantations, which would not only bring greater gaines to this Government, then any place they can poſſeſſe in the *India's*, but alſo be

formidable, to assist in any honourable atchievments near at home, that may in time be thought requisite.

7. And if we must have to do at the *India's*, let a more opportune time be waited for, which may be at any other better then now, for the Spaniard seeing that we proceed not, will grow careless, and our ships being already sheathed, and warlike Provisions fitted, may insensibly be put forth to fall upon them, when not so warned, and consequently armed, as at present they are, and Merchants, though not made fully acquainted with the intentions of States, may moderate and draw home their adventures in the *Interim*, and a yeares possession more or lesse of the places intended, cannot import by too great a quantity what may be lost, in that the Merchants of this Commonwealth have trade in all the dominions of *Spain*, and great estates there depending, that cannot be so suddenly withdrawn, the entercourse having been of long continuance, that hath contracted many debts, and occasioned the transmission of goods for sales, from one place to another, yea, many to the very *India's*, though in Spaniards names, all which will undoubtedly be seized on, if this Fleet fall upon any of that Kings territories, and will be of farre more value then is to be feared will be had from the *India's* in many years: and to him will prove a good Exchange, to have so many ready effects for his present occasions, in stead of an Island that yields him little or nothing of revenue.

The Merchants of this Nation lost in the yeare 1655. by the Spanish Imbargo: *which was made by reason of this Fleets Proceeding to the* India's, *above* 500000 li. *sterling, to the ruining of many able men and their families.*

8. Falling out with that people, the greater part of our Manufactory here must cease, whereof that Countrey vents more then any other Nation with whom we have Commerce, which will deprive a great number of poor Tradesmen of livelihood, and this Commonwealth of its Custom and Excise of all Commodities exported hence, and brought from other places of those dominions, some whereof

whereof do in a yeares time pay the greater parts of their value, if not the whole, to this State, as can eaſily be made manifeſt, and with thoſe Manufactories comes into this Nations poſſeſſion, a great part of the Plate that arrives from the *India's*, for which this Common-wealth is neither at charge nor hazard: and men are enabled to undergo the burthen of taxes, &c. but if trade faile, their eſtates muſt decay, and be inabilitated to contribute towards the maintenance of Fleets and Armies, which are ſo chargeable.

Much of our Manufactory hath ceaſed for want of vent to our Commodities in Spain, *and the ſcarcity of coine in the Nation, in part beſpeaks this truth.*

Doubtleſſe his Highneſſe will have deeply weighed what buſineſſe may be undertaken. eſpecially of ſuch importance, yet foraſmuch as this is a matter that falls not into the reach of all men, and that heed muſt be given to ſuch as pretend to know moſt in it, 'tis to be hoped that thoſe private perſons will not eye more any particular end of intereſt, or revenge of wrongs received, before the good of their Countrey, which his Highneſs is beſeeched to examine, as alſo that their Drifts be not to ſcatter the Nations forces, that are now terrible to its enemies, into many places for their deſtruction, which otherwiſe cannot be ſo eaſily wrought.

Was not the Jeſuites hand in this deſigne, aiming at the ruine of our Fleets and men, with the diſrepute of the Nation, and indeed its to be admired that ſuch a Conduct ſhould be committed to a perſon that had never been out of England, *and ſcarce heard of, much leſſe experimented, what People and Countrey he was to deal with in* America.

Some

Some Conſiderations humbly remitted to his Highneſſe the Lord Protector, *in order to the better Proſecution of a Warre with* Spaine, *delivered about* Novemb. 1655.

IN the Bay of *Biſcay*, among others, are the chief Ports of *Sanſebaſtian* and *Bilbao*, being the inlets of Commodities that furniſh the Northern parts of *Caſtile*, and other Provinces of *Spain*, eſpecially with Fiſh, of which that Countrey vents great quantities, and will be ſupplied by the *French* and *Dutch*, with whatſoever they have occaſion for, except this State prevent the ſame, by keeping men of Warre upon that Coaſt, but foure or five Frigats will hinder all their trade, and deprive the places aforeſaid of other conveniences, to the loſſe of the Kings Cuſtomes, and Livelihood of the inhabitants, which will make them clamorous, more particularly when they cannot ſell their Countrey goods, as Wools, Iron, &c. nor receive grain from forreign parts, of which many times they ſtand in great want, and the ſaid Frigats will hinder the attempts of the men of Warre of *Sanſebaſtians*, that otherwiſe may be very offenſive to our *Engliſh* Merchants ſhips, and theſe Frigats may be ſheltered in the Coaſt of *France*, or in St. *Antonio*, an open Port of the Spaniards near *Bilbao*, upon occaſions of bad weather, and may happily meet the *Hollanders*, that are now lading the Spaniſh Wools, there appertaining to the *Aſentiſtas*, which

They have enjoyed as free a Trade, as when we had peace with Spain, *putting their Commodities at what rates they pleaſed, and prohibited the bringing in of ours.*

What damages the Pirates of Sanſebaſtians *and* Paſage, *have ſince done this Nation, all Traders too well know, which might have been prevented of ſuch a Squadron, if our Frigats had been allotted: and the ſubjects of* Spain *would have been made ſenſible of a Warre as well as the* Engliſh.

which are to go for *Flanders* to help pay the ſouldiery.

In the Provinces of *Galicia* and *Aſturias*, ſeated between *Biſcaya* and *Portugal*, the ſaid King of *Spain* hath a vaſt revenue out of the ſalt that is brought into thoſe parts from South *Spain*, by *Hollanders* and others, of which they may be totally deprived, by keeping five or ſix Frigats about thoſe parts, which is a good Coaſt, and they may harbour themſelves in ſtormy weather, in the Iſlands of *Bayona* and *Donis*, and there refreſh themſelves with water at pleaſure againſt all the power that Countrey can make, and the taking of the ſaid ſalt will not be only the Kings loſſe, but the whole Countrey muſt be driven to great extremities, and not be able to follow their Fiſhing trade, which is the greateſt maintenance the common people have, and ſaid Frigats will lie opportunely to ſecure our Traders againſt the *Sally*-men of Warre that uſually frequent thoſe Coaſts, and *Dunquerquers* that are already there, and will every day increaſe to prey upon our Merchants ſhips, that go for *Portugal* and other places.

No ſhips being ordered from hence, the men of Warre ſailing out of Galicia, *have ſurprized many of our veſſels, trading for* Portugal, Barbary, *the* Canary-*Iſlands*, *&c.*

The *Canary*-Iſlands have great dependencies one upon the other, which are in all ſeven, for Corne, Cattel, &c. eſpecially, great part of their ſubſiſtence conſiſts in a Fiſhing trade, which they drive in ſmall veſſels for the Coaſt of *Barbary*, but two or three nimble ſmall Frigats will take moſt of their Boats in a ſhort time, and reduce them to much neceſſity, and the trade of this Nation failing, which is the chief ſupport they have, thoſe parts will in a manner be ruined, and the ſaid Frigats may refreſh themſelves at all times in the *Madera* Iſland, belonging to the King of *Portugal*, about ſeventy Leagues diſtant from the *Canaries*.

There was never a Frigat ſent for the Canaries *ſince the Warres, except General* Blakes *Fleet, rather the Spaniſh Pirates have there ſurprized our Merchant men: and Natives ſold the Wines of the Countrey at double the value of what it was formerly worth in time of Peace.*

Malaga-Alicants, and *Valentia* within the Streights, are

are places abounding with Wine, Oile, and Fruit, the greater part whereof was brought for *England*, and that trade failing, the generality of people will be brought to hard-ſhip, the rather if we have men of Warre upon their Ports, to examine all ſtrangers, and de-priveth them from carrying Pro-viſions, without which they cannot well ſubſiſt, and Commodities lying in the inhabitants hands: as they muſt if ſtrangers bring them not hither, will be for the moſt part loſt.

For want of ſuch ſhips in the Streights mouth, have we loſt many a rich veſſel, trading in the Levant, &c. *and the enemie there was never interrupted by any that went for the purpoſe.*

But the grand buſineſſe of all will be to have a Fleet near the Bay of *Cales*, to hinder that place *Sevilla* and *Saintlucar* from Commerce, and to beat the *Armada* they have now out, which being done, in long time will not that King be able to make a power ſufficient to encounter our Fleet; nor bring home his treaſure from the *Indiaes*, and it were to be wiſhed that ſaid Fleets might conſiſt of a competent number of the old Navie ſhips, the better to handle their Galions which are ſtrongly built, and have great Ordnance, and into this Fleet may, upon any urgent Occaſion, be drawn the other Frigats from the Coaſt of *Galicia* and *Biſcaya*, being ſo near at hand, the putting off which in the aforeſaid ſtations, is reaſonably to be judged, will be of more prejudice to *Spain* in a ſhort time, then the loſs of the Plate Fleet, and the charge of this State will be ſmall in the doing ther-of, and by this meanes likewiſe will the King of *Spain* be deprived of having his Galions, that are now providing in *Biſcaya*, *Naples*, and other places, to joyne with his great Fleet, or Ammunition and other neceſſaries for the ſame, that in great part is furniſh't from *Sanſebaſtians* and *Paſage*.

This Nation hath loſt by the Pirates of Sanſebaſtians, *Paſage*, *Galicia*, *Majork*, *&c. near* 1000. *Saile of Ships, which beſide diſappointment, and weakening the Commonwealth, are reputed to be worth above two Millions of pounds ſterling, occaſioned meerly for want of having men of Warre in the parts deſired; the charge of which would have been borne by the Cuſtom and Exciſe due to the State of our loſt Goods.*

A ſtrict charge were needful to be given all Sea-Commanders, for the examining of Ships bound into the Spaniſh Dominions, concerning Proviſions, Cordage, Sail-Clothes, Maſts, Tarre, Armes, &c. in that therein will depend their being able to ſet forth a Fleet of Ships or not.

All Hollanders, French, and others, have been tolerated, though our Fleets lay there, to carry in Proviſions and Ammunition without diſturbance.

And foraſmuch as many *Engliſh* and *Scotch* Seamen, do in too great numbers, frequent *Biſcaya*, *Dunkirk*, and other Pirating places, to the encouragement of Rovers, it were a matter worth conſideration, whether it may not be convenient to ſet out a Proclamation, inviting home all ſuch as appertain to this Commonwealth, and if after a ſet time they continue in the ſervice of any Prince or State in enmity with this Nation, to be proceeded againſt according to their contempt, if taken: the ſooner a good Squadron of Ships were ſent to the Coaſt of *Spain*, is conceived would be the bettet, conſidering how many Merchants veſſels we have abroad, that are ſubject to be ſurprized and taken by the Spaniard, as many have lately been, which will be a great encouragement and ſtrength to them, and loſſe to this Nation.

Such have very much ſtrengthned the Adverſaries, in furniſhing their ſhips, and putting them upon ſuch matters, as of themſelves they could never have accompliſht, to our great prejudice.

We had above twenty Sail of good men of Warre ready at Portſmouth, *in* Decemb. 1655. *and had they been ſent away for* Cales, *would have taken and ſpoilt their Plate-Fleet, that arriv'd there about* March *following.*

Theſe and ſuch like courſes being taken, will deprive the King of *Spain* of the greater part of his Incomes, and render his people incapable to pay taxes, which are heavy upon them, and conſequently his Armies and Garriſons will be neglected in pay and Proviſions, ſome of his remoteſt territories will revolt or be taken from him, and a

On the contrary, inſtead of oppreſſing the Spaniard, the Engliſh have in ſo high a manner ſuffered by our ill managing the War, that moſt of the Stock and Trade of the Nation is loſt.

general Calamity overwhelm the whole, and then this Nation may take advantages to fall upon the skirts of of ſome of his Dominions, or compel him to a Peace with this State, that may be made to the glory of God, and welfare of the Common-wealth.

Given to a Stateſman the 9th. of May *1657. to be delivered the* Protector, *a Paper of the following Contents.*

The condition of the Iſland of *Thenerife*, in regard the inhabitants are numerous, is ſcantie in point of Proviſions, being in part ordinarily ſupplied from the reſt of the Iſlands of the *Canaries* and other places, with Corn, Fiſh, and other neceſſaries, without which they cannot well live.

Now the Spaniſh Silver Fleets being there, will have made an addition of near 4000 men, which with the inhabitants will in ſhort time very much ſtreighten that Iſland, eſpecially if they be interrupted in drawing relief from the other Iſlands.

They could not have ſubſiſted ſix moneths without ſupplies from abroad.

The ſaid Weſt-*India* Fleet cannot be there fitted to go upon a new Voyage, unleſſe ſupply of Ammunition, Proviſions, &c. be ſent from *Holland*, *Spain*, or ſome other places.

In no Port of the *Canary*-Iſlands, can thoſe ſhips lie ſafe from burning, ſinking, or taking, a greater power going to fall upon them.

They were all deſtroyed by General Blake *in* Sancta Cruz *road.*

The treaſure being in that Iſland, if this State be not wanting to it ſelf, it may be reaſonably judged, its farre more liable to fall into this Nations hands then formerly, when coming from the *Indias*, by keeping fourteen or ſixteen men of Warre ſmall and great, in and about the ſaid Iſland of *Thenerife*, to hinder all Commerce of Forreigners, or ſuſtenance from the neighbour-Iſlands, which is a thing feaſible, and in few moneths its probable, ſuch order being taken, they may

may be brought to such hardship, as to surrender or give some other advantage to this Nation, and taking away all Communication of the Islands one to another, the conveniences of the Inhabitants will cease, and if not relieved by a strong power from *Spain*, which is not likely to be afforded while our Fleet is upon that Coast, they will be in a manner undone, on the contrary, if the said Islands be not straitened by our ships will follow.

General Blake then lay before *Cales*.

The accesse of *Biscayners*, *Dunquerquers*, and other vessels, to supply and strengthen the said *Spanish* Fleet, and put them into a capacity to take the advantage of an opportunity to get for some part of *Spain*, or encourage their Fleet at *Cales* to come forth, and make up so formidable a power as to conduct them home, or fight our Fleet, rendring void the expectations had as to this matter.

Likewise 'tis to be feared, that the *Hollanders*, of which many are going for *Thenerife*, will be made use of to furnish the Islands, and fetch from thence the silver, which nothing can obstruct, but the lying of our Fleet before it, besieging the same, which will be the only way to obtain our ends, and frustrate the enemy of that treasure, whereof he hath such pressing occasions.

Holland Merchant-men, by degrees brought all the silver, and other India-*Commodities from the Ilands, of which they might have bin hindred by five or six men of War, and justly made prize of, as carrying none but Spaniards Goods.*

Another Paper was given for the Protector, *immediately upon advice that General* Blake *had burnt the* Spanish *Fleet, in the Port of* Sancta Cruz, *at* Thenerife. viz.

The Island of *Thenerife*, in regard of the large trade it hath of late yeares enjoy'd, is numerous in people, and of it self for so many is bare of Provisions, but their largest supplies have been of Corne and Cattel, from *Lancarots*, *Fuerte Ventura*, the grand *Canaries Hiero* and *Gomera*, and with Fish from the Coast of *Barbary*, by their

own Frigats and Ships from *England* and *Holland*.

The late addition of men in the West-*India* Fleet, will have occasioned a greater scarcity, which will very much distract the greater part of the inhabitants that are labouring men, especially if the trade of Wine should be shortened, or altogether cut off, which is their chief dependence.

The successe which General *Blake* had in *Sancta Cruz*, contrary to the ignorant expectations of the Islanders, who having never seen enemy, thought themselves strong enough to withstand any power whatsoever, will much discompose them, and the rather when they see their King unable to supply them with necessaries, it being very probable, that in the last fight they spent the greater part of the small store they had of powder and ammunition, of which at best they were never well provided.

They were possest with such fear after the fight in Sancta Cruz, *that the Island and Treasure might have been surprized by a small Army of well disciplin'd Soldiers and Seamen.*

The riches which the West-*India* Fleet brought to the Island, and what was there before, will amount unto so considerable a quantity, that it were worth the employment of a great strength to endeavour obtaining the same, but a smaller force well ordered will reduce the place to such streights, as that in short time it may be taken by force, or necessitated to a Composition, and the rather when animosities arise among the people, as questionlesse there will, when the major part of the ordinary sort shall suffer in harder measure then the rest, and the truth is, at best those Islanders being a mixt generation, will not be very zealous for their King, which looks upon them to no other purpose, then to oppresse them by taxes and levies of souldiers, and the losse of their men by reason of the Spanish Fleets coming thither, will heighten their discontent.

The Fleets was worth near foure millions of pounds sterling, and the Iland for its bignesse one of the best in the world.

Now the ready way, as is humbly conceived, to obtain our

our ends, if for the preſent a full attempt may not be made upon the Iland, is to keep about fourteen Sail of men of Warre from 40 to 10 guns, reparted in ſeveral ſtations, where they may moſt of the yeare ride at Auchor before the enemies Ports, and deprive them of all kinde of ſuſtenance from abroad, yea, of their very fiſhing in ſmall boats in their Creeks, which is a relief unto them.

Never a ſhip went, nor any other diligence uſed, as to this thing.

And theſe ſhips will not only curb *Thenerife*, but incommode the grand *Canaries*, *Palma* and the other Ilands, which as it depends on them for proviſions, ſo do they upon this, for their trade, and ſupplies of Goods with neceſſaries for their defence, the General of all the Ilands living in *Thenerife*, the reduction whereof will prove the ſubjecting of all the reſt of the Ilands affairs, being duely managed.

Lancarte and *Fuerte Ventura*, are Iſlands thinly inhabited, and may with ſmall ſtrength be brought to ſubjection, from whence our Fleets may be ſupplied with bread and cattel, and a ſufficient number of good horſes to joyne with our Army to attempt *Thenerife*, in caſe it be reſolved to aſſault the ſame.

Moreover, our ſhips lying there, will be a meanes to interrupt any veſſels of the Spaniards coming from the Weſt-*Indiaes*, whereof many are expected, and deprive them from carrying Wines thither, of which they ſtand in great want, eſpecially now, that no Galions or *New Spaines* Fleets can go out of *Cales*, as in former years, and the Iſland will be ſo alarmed, that the people will not be able to hold out in hard duty, which they muſt be put upon, being altogether unaccuſtomed thereunto, beſide, they muſt wholly neglect their labour, and conſequently the Vintage of Wines, which is near at hand, will be much empaired; and ſhips being hindred from fetching away any Wines from *Thenerife*, for *Holland* and *England*,

Two dayes after General Blake *burnt the Calions in* Sancta Cruz, *came thither from the* Indies *a Spaniſh Ship, worth above* 300000 li. *which might have bin taken, had any of our Frigats layn thereabout, and ſo might many others that arriv'd.*

England, ſuch a generel calamity will poſſeſſe moſt of the Natives, that our deſignes will ſtill finde the better progreſſe, and what honour and advantage it will be to this Nation to have *Tbenerife*, and any other of the Iſlands, is left to conſideration.

Severall other Papers have bin given in with pertinent and ſeaſonable hints, as to the ſecuring our Comerce, and offending the *Spaniard*: who every way as is ſhewne hath done us ſo much miſcheif, the contents whereof beeing fitter for the States conſideration then to bee communicated, I forbare to inſert, but nothing was put in execution how uſefull ſoever. And laſtly, though publickly enough knowne, how the Plate Fleete was to returne from the *Indias*, this Spring it was particularly in time motioned, that a power might be ordered againſt them, which would have eaſily bin made up, by ſending a Squadron to joyne with Capt: *Stoakes*, that hath done little good where he lyes, had this bin effected, and our Ships taken and deſtroyed that Fleete, as in probability they might, with ſmall charge to the *Nation*, what advantage it would afforded us, and loſſe with diſappointment to the *Spaniard* may be judged, but they are ſafely got home without diſturbance, which occaſious not only the *Spaniards*, but moſt other *Nations* to deride us for keeping ſuch Fleetes, as ſince the Warre wee have done abroade, to ſo vaſt an expence, only ſcouring the Seas when wee had not viſible enemies to Incounter, and to withdraw them as we have done at the very time, when wee ſhould watchfully attend ſuch of the adverſaries Fleetes, as aſſuredly wee had advice were a coming, inſomuch that after this conteſt, we have obtayned little of value from the *Spaniard*, more then what taken by the Squadron left with Cap: *Stayner*, and that by meere accident, when the great body of our Fleete was retired to *Liſboa* for water and proviſions, the which kinde of proceedings, makes many good *Engliſh-men* ſuſpect the Warre was undertaken rather to deſtroy the ſtrength, purſe, and trade of the *Nation*, then to offend the enemie, which with halfe the power ſent out, and charges wee have bin at, wiſely ordered, might have bin ere this

time

time reduced to a different condition then that hee is in, but in this covetous age, have not our Councils ſecrets bin opened by the *Spaniſh* Golden Key, at leaſtwiſe contrary to the practice of the wiſeſt *Nations*. Among us, hath not the management of the moſt weighty tranſactions of State, and Navies bin committed to perſons unexperienc't, as if ſome of the preſent generation, beyond all former, were borne capable of ſuch high emploiments, without being educated and gradually inſtructed thereunto, let the cauſes be what they were, the inſtruments are known, and this *Nation* is made too ſenſible of the *Spaniſh* Warre, and other tranſactions, by its continual loſſes and ſufferings, God grant thoſe now in Authority, Abilities, Intentions, and Indeavours, more prudentially to carry on affairs for future, ſo as the general intereſt of the people of this Nation may precede all private reſpects whatſoever, and be reſtored to their rights, Religious and Civil, that have bin ſo long clouded.

FINIS.